

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 INR-10 L-03 ACDA-12
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FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
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USMISSION USNATO

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: MPOL, PGOV, PPDC, NL
SUBJECT: LETTER TO THE PRESIDENT FROM FORMER MOD KRUISINGA

REF: THE HAGUE 173

1. SUMMARY: FORMER DUTCH MOD KRUISINGA HAS ACCOMPANIED HIS ABRUPT RESIGNATION WITH LETTERS TO VARIOUS PROMINENT PERSONALTIES IN THE NETHERLANDS AND ABROAD, INCLUDING PRESIDENT CARTER. THE LETTERS, HASTILY WRITTEN AND SELF-SERVING, EMBROIDER ON THE GIVEN REASON FOR HIS RESIGNATION, NAMELY KRUISINGA'S INABILITY TO SUPPORT THE CABINET'S POSITION ON ERW. NO ACTION REQUIRED. END SUMMARY.

2. EARLY MARCH 7 WE RECEIVED CALL FROM MOD SAYING THEY WERE TRANSMITTING TO THE EMBASSY A KRUISINGA LETTER TO THE PRESIDENT. SHORTLY THEREAFTER WE RECEIVED A SECOND CALL REQUESTING US TO SEND KRUISINGA LETTER BY POUCH, NOT WIRE, WITH THE EXPLANATION THAT MINISTRY WISHED TO BE SURE LETTER TRANSMITTED BY US WOULD NOT ARRIVE IN WASHINGTON AHEAD OF TEXT SENT TO AMBASSADOR TAMMENONS BAKKER. IN RESPONSE TO QUERIES, HOWEVER, WE WERE TOLD DUTCH EMBASSY HAS TEXT ONLY FOR INFORMATION, NOT ACTION.

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3. KRUISINGA LETTER TO PRESIDENT CONTAINS NOTHING NEW. IT RESTATES THE POINTS MADE IN HIS REYIGNATION LETTER TO PRIME MINISTER VAN AGT (A COPY OF WHICH HE ATTACHED) AND HIS CONCLUSION THAT AS A CHRISTIAN POLITICIAN HE CANNOT ACCEPT A NEW ESCALATION IN THE FIELD OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS. LETTER EXPRESSED HOPE THAT PRESIDENT WILL "TAKE A DECISION THAT WILL NOT DISAP-

POINT TO BELIEVE IN THE POSITION IN WHICH CHRISTIAN POLITICIANS ARE." THE LETTER, WHICH IS RESPECTFUL IN TONE, CONCLUDES BY SAYING KRUISINGW WOULD APPRECIATE "ANY REACTION" FROM THE PRESIDENT. THE LETTER WHICH, LIKE THE OTHERS, SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN WRITTEN THE NIGHT PRIOR TO THE ACCEPTANCE OF KRUISINGA'S RESIGNATION BEARS MARKS OF HASTY DRAFTING.

4. BESIDES HIS RESIGNATION LETTER TO PRIME MINISTER VAN AGT, KRUISINGA ALSO WROTE CDA LEADER AANTJES, FORMER NORWEGIAN PRIME MINISTER KORVAL AND POSSIBLY OTHERS. EXISTENCE AND GENERAL CONTENT OF LETTERS HAVE BEEN CONFIRMED IN PRESS. KRUISINGA HAY NOT ISSUED FURTHER PUBLIC COMMENT.

5. COMMENT: FROM THE WAY THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE HAS HANDLED THE CARTER LETTER AND FROM OTHER INDICATIONS, IT IS PRETTY CLEAR THAT KRUISINGA'S LAST-DITCH EFFORTS TO JUSTIFY HIMSELF HAVE BEEN REGARDED AS AN INEFFECTUAL AND SELF-SERVING GESTURE. WE ARE TOLD ON GOOD AUTHORITY THAT KRUISINGA WROTE LETTER TO THE PRESIDENT ON MINISTRY STATIONERY BUT THAT MOD OFFICIALS REMOVED THE MINISTRY HEADING AND SUBSTITUTED KRUISINGA'S PERSONAL ADDRESS. THIS EXPLAINS WHY WE ONLY RECEIVED PHOTOCOPY AND NOT ORIGINAL. WITH THE NOMINATION OF SCHOLTEN AS A NEW MOD, KRUISINGA'S RESIGNATION IS RAPIDLY RECEDING INTO THE BACKGROUND. UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES, NO REPLY OR OTHER ACKNOWLEDGEMENT IS CALLED FOR. TEXT OF LETTER FOLLOWS BELOW. COPIES POUCHED EUR/NE.

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6. BEGIN TEXT:

MISTER PRESIDENT,

TODAY I AM RESIGNING AS A MINISTER OF DEFENSE FROM THE NETHERLANDS GOVERNMENT.

THE REASON IS THE POSSIBILITY OF THE PRODUCTION AND/OR INTRODUCTION OF THE NEUTRON BOMB BY NATO.

I HAVE FOLLOWED THE POSITION YOU TOOK IN POLITICAL QUESTIONS ALWAYS WITH THE GREATEST INTEREST.

I HAVE ALWAYS BEEN CONVINCED OF YOUR RESPECT FOR CHRISTIAN PRINCIPLES FOR WHICH WE HAVE TO STAND FOR. IN MY CONVICTION A CHRISTIAN POLITICIAN CANNOT ACCEPT A NEW ESCALATION IN THE FIELD OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS.

IT CANNOT DO SO IN PRACTICE. IT ALSO CANNOT DO SO AS AN ELEMENT OF NEGOTIATION. THE REASONS FOR THAT ARE MENTIONED IN THE LETTERS I ADD TO THIS LETTER, NAMELY THOSE TO THE PRIME MINISTER OF THE NETHERLANDS, TO THE FLOOR LEADER OF MY PARTY, TO MY GOOD

FRIEND, THE FORMER PRIME MINISTER OF NORWAY, LARS KORVAL.

I HOPE YOU WILL CONSIDER THE ARGUMENTS.

AS A MEMBER OF THE DUTCH REFORMED CHURCH, AS COMING FROM A
MENNONITE-FAMILY I OFTEN HAVE FELT CLOSE TO YOUR BAPTIST CHURCH,
HAVING BEEN TO SO MANY OF YOUR AMERICAN BAPTIST SERVICES. I
FEEL CONVINCED THAT YOU YOURSELF WILL TAKE A DECISION THAT WILL
NOT DISAPPOINT TO BELIEVE IN THE POSITION IN WHICH CHRISTIAN
POLITICIANS ARE.

MISTER PRESIDENT, I AM SINCERELY CONVINCED THAT THE DECISION
WE DO TAKE NOW WILL AND CAN BE OF DECISIVE INFLUENCE ON WORLD
PEACE.

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THE THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS OF OUR CHURCH-COMMUNITY IN THE NETHER-
LANDS WILL BE WITH YOU, WHO HAS TO TAKE THIS DECISION AND THE
RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE PRODUCTION AND INTRODUCTION OF THE
NEUTRON BOMB.

OF COURSE I WOULD APPRECIATE IF YOU WOULD TAKE THE TROUBLE TO
GIVE ANY REACTION CONCERNING YOUR POSITION IN THIS CASE.

YOURS SINCERELY,
(SIGNED) ROELOF J.H. KRUISINGA. END TEXT.
BROWN

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Message Attributes

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